Blue Ribbons

Aufschneider is first

Manager of Authority Coordination, 21-year NJDOT veteran Kathleen Aufschneider recently became the first woman in the nation to hold the top engineering job at a toll road authority when she accepted an offer from the South Jersey Transportation Authority.

Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. congratulated Aufschneider on her new position and praised her as one of NJDOT's finest employees.

Aufschneider will oversee improvements at the Atlantic City airport and on the Atlantic City Expressway, including implementation of the new electronic toll system. She will also help oversee proposed tunnel and roadway projects to connect the expressway with the Marina District.

A professional engineer and planner who started with NJDOT in 1976 as a Civil Engineer Trainee, Aufschneider held several management positions as she rose through the ranks.

Palisades award

Program Manager David Sichik of Project Management received one of the two Palisades Interstate Park Commission's (PIPC) prestigious 1996 Palisades Black Bear Awards for the excellent manner in which he and his staff provided leadership for the 12-mile renovation of the Palisades Interstate Parkway project.

Sichik said that he has given the PIPC award, a six and a half inch statue of a black bear, a prominent place on his desk. Sichik heads all capital program projects in Warren, Sussex, Passaic and Bergen counties.

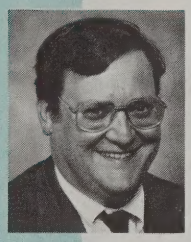
"This important safety and improvement project was clearly an engineering challenge," said NJDOT

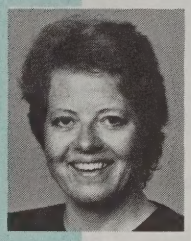
(Continued on page 4)

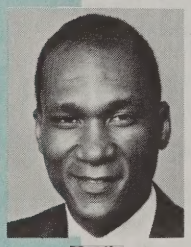
Vol. 31, No. 7
July 1997
Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Commissioner John J. Haley Jr.

TRANSPORTER

Haley announces top aides


Rosenblum


Woods


Maclin

Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. stressed the critical issues that affect the future of transportation, such as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the breakup of Conrail and the start of enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance when he announced the management team that will help him meet his strategic objectives.

Stanley J. Rosenblum, who has worked for NJ Transit and NJDOT for 16 years, accepted the position of Deputy Commissioner. "Stan's intermodal transportation background and his demonstrated ability to work with people make him suitable to handle the day-to-day responsibilities of the Department and allow me to concentrate on critical high profile issues," Haley said. Capital Program Control & Support Services now report directly to Rosenblum.

Pippa Woods replaced Rosenblum as Assistant Commissioner for External and Governmental Affairs. Woods has been directly involved in high profile public policy issues and has extensive planning experience. She was Director of the Office of Transportation Policy.

Jeff Maclin, the new Director of Communications, will carry out an aggressive and positive communications plan that will build public support for critical projects and policies. Maclin was formerly Director of Public Information at NJ Transit.

Robert DeSando, newly named Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, has extensive legislative and communications experience. He will assist the Commissioner to ensure that the Department's communications strategic objectives receive broad support from elected officials.

Emergency Service Patrols get high marks

When it comes to high marks for customer service on New Jersey's highways, the Emergency Service Patrol program rates high. Funded by the Federal Highway Administration initially as a pilot, the program is now in its third year.

The achievements of the two patrols — one in the northern and one in the southern ends of the state — during 1996 were impressive according to the recently published annual report. In the north, the ESPs helped 13,570 motorists; in the south, they helped 10,184. Reasons for the stops included disabled and abandoned vehicles, debris, fire, accidents or pedestrian problems.

On the average day, the ESP team members in the north or south could make as many as 43 stops for flat tires, to tag vehicles so the NJ State Police could tow them, give gas, add water, push cars from roadway lanes, or deal with mechanical, electrical or lockout problems.

Assisted motorists receive "rating" cards that they can complete with a description of the type and quality of service they experienced. The cards are color coded for different areas of New Jersey. Although the cards go to the Commissioner's office, Manager Jean Servideo of Traffic Operations North and Manager Kurt Aufschneider of Traffic Operations South ultimately get the cards. Motorists also write letters about the ESP, which Servideo or Aufschneider answer. Also, the regional managers handle complaints.

Sometimes there's a difficult situation. If motorists leave cash tips the ESP will attempt to return them if possible. If they can't, the ESP will turn the money in to a charity fund.

One Brooklyn motorist writes that the ESP team members were courteous and professional, arrived quickly and were helpful. A motorist from Kinnelon wrote, "Great service — nice to see tax dollars at work." Others called patrol members' attitude "terrific." Their concern for family members, said another, "made me and my baby feel very safe and got me back on the road fast."

ISTEA Works! for Bradley Beach train station restoration

Thanks to a federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant and the State Transportation Trust fund, downtown Bradley Beach has a new look. NJDOT Commissioner and NJ Transit Board Chairman John J. Haley Jr. joined Bradley Beach Mayor Stephen G. Schueler, NJ Transit Assistant Executive Director of Engineering Rick Richmond and local entrepreneurs Irene Allegro and Reenie Peternich for a ribbon-cutting and historic plaque dedication to reopen the Bradley Beach train station.

The station on the North Jersey Coast Line now sports a fully restored interior and exterior, parking improvements, a new heating and air-conditioning system, historic lighting and benches, installation of accessible bathrooms and retail space for Allegro-Peternich's Back in Time Cafe.

NJDOT Commissioner and NJ Transit Board Chairman John J. Haley Jr., center, Mayor Stephen G. Schueler, left and NJ Transit Assistant Executive Director Rick Richmond, lower right, dedicate the newly renovated Bradley Beach train station.

"With the assistance of state and federal funding, our Bradley Beach riders now have a station they can be proud of," Haley said. "In addition to a host of new passenger amenities, the new cafe in the station building will offer coffee, breakfast goods, newspapers and other items to our commuters, local residents and visitors of this Jersey Shore community. This is a classic example of the benefits a joint project can bring to our customers and the community for years to come."

Other stations scheduled for restoration are Woodbridge on the North Jersey Coast Line, Rahway on the Northeast corridor, Netherwood on the Raritan Valley Line and Maplewood on the Morris and Essex Lines. Although the ISTEA funds will expire in September, New Jersey and other states are requesting that Congress renew the ISTEA program.

Teamwork clears up road for rush hour in North Region

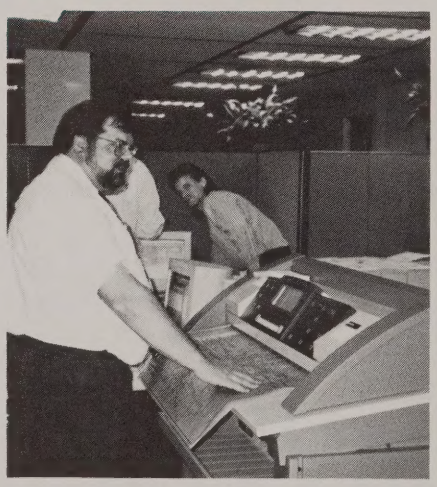
Cleanup crews complete their work along the damaged construction barrier so NJDOT can construct a temporary crossover lane.

The quick work of the NJDOT North Region's Incident Management Response Team averted a potential rush-hour traffic jam due to a diesel fuel (HAZMAT) tractor-trailer accident. Traveling on I-287 South in Bridgewater at 1 a.m. on May 13, the vehicle hit a guardrail and hit the cement barrier about 300 feet before it came to rest. Then the fuel tank ruptured and caused a diesel fuel spill that closed off the interstate except for one lane of traffic.

Although the cleanup company completed their job by dawn, the roadway was still closed. NJDOT Resident Engineer Bruce Newrock, Consultant Engineer Mansukh Savalia and Dave Abad of Yonkers Construction directed the construction of a temporary crossover to allow the outer lane of traffic to drive through the construction area. After the morning rush, NJDOT reopened the roadway and closed the crossover.

New repro equipment to save time

NJDOT employees can now bring aerial photography, pictures, drawings and blueprints for reproduction, enlargement, reduction or scanning on a new high speed digital engineering printing and copying system. Engineering Documents Unit employees Rosanne Korpos, Don Paric, Brian Stritzki, Jim Hoschek and Joe Weber recently held an open house to explain the Océ system with a company representative. Located on the ground level of the E&O Building, the new equipment reduces the amount of copies that are sent to outside services. Eventually the software will go on to the network and individuals can electronically send requests for copies from their workstations. For now, call Rose Dey at 609-530-5587.



Project Engineer Joe Weber scans a map on the new reproscan.

TRANSPORTER

Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Commissioner John J. Haley Jr.

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People Briefs

Move

Assistant Commissioner Albert B. Ari announced that **F. Rodney Roberson** will assume the position of Acting Executive Director, Regional Operations South, replacing Bill Dickinson (see "Retirees" story).

Engagement

MVS Secretarial Assistant 3 **Jacqueline Schickley** in the Bureau of Information Update & Retrieval and MIS Technician **Joseph Passarelli** in Information & Systems Management announced their engagement on June 26.

Nuptials

Wedding bells rang for Division of Project Management's **Michele L. Tocco** and Scott T. Borton of Southampton, NJ on May 9.

Construction & Maintenance Technician 3 **Kevin J. Patrick** of the North Region and Karen Ann Kowalski of Pittstown honeymooned in New England following their wedding on May 31.

New arrivals

MVS Technical Support's **Angela Lamorte** and husband Michael welcomed 8 lb. 3 oz. Alissa Denise on June 14.

Ryan Michael became the fifth member of the Signora family on June 24. The 10 lb. 3 oz. arrival is the son of Principal Engineer **Robert Signora** and wife Maria.

Assistant Engineer in Pavement Management **Richard Cary** and wife Tamra welcomed 7 lb. 6 oz. Alan Claude on June 26.

Saif Ali, son of Sr. Engineer **Mujahid Khan** of Structural Evaluation & Bridge Management and wife Alice, was born on June 27 at 7 lbs. 6 oz.

Obituaries

NJDOT retiree **Edith Johanna Deacon** of Pennsauken died June 2 in Marlton. The Kennedy Memorial Hospital volunteer is survived by husband Joseph, son James E. Adcock, daughter Paula Lynn Long and a granddaughter.

Edward Thaddeus Paul Sr. died June 5 in Grinnell, IA. The World War II U.S. Army veteran and NJDOT retiree is survived by wife Frances, sons Edward Jr. and Alan, daughters Wanda Marsillio, Virginia Lohrey, Robin Williams and Madeline Kau and several grandchildren.

U.S. Army World War II anti-aircraft artillery gun crewman **Stanley J. Worek** died June 11 in Hamilton. The 1979 NJDOT retiree is survived by wife Marie, daughter Sharon J. Sullivan and several grandchildren.

Retirees chose new lifestyles

June's retirees total 300 years of experience, some unique. Here's a sampling.

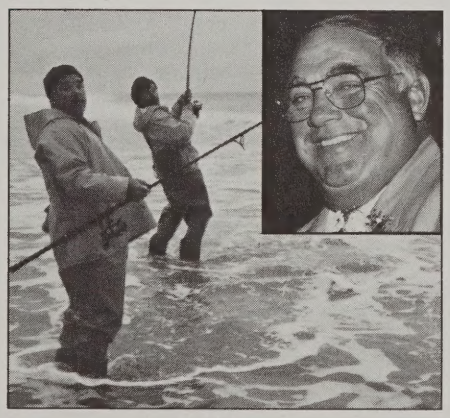
Gone fishing . . .

Newly retired Executive Director for Regional Operations **Bill Dickinson** traded his 32-year NJDOT career for the lure of landing the big one off the Jersey coast.

"I'm going fishing," Dickinson said shortly before his retirement on June 30. "I have no other plans right now."

"The most important project I worked on was the completion of I-78 through the Watchung Reservation," Dickinson said of a NJDOT career that began in June 1965 as an assistant engineer. "That project had a lot of challenges, a lot of design changes throughout construction because of the nature of the rock. And it was a high profile project, with a lot of community outreach and public meetings."

As an employee who worked his way through the ranks, many units reported to Dickinson through the years. "That's what made the job interesting. I'm a people person. I feel good about the people I assembled here when I came in. I'm real happy with the team I put together. I had great people to work with. But then, there



Dickinson

were always a lot of good people to choose from. There are many quality individuals at NJDOT."

No immediate plans . . .

Manager I **Mike Kjetsaa** retired July 1 after 36 years at NJDOT. Kjetsaa served as Executive Director of Regional Operations (Trenton) and was Deputy State Transportation Engineer until his most recent assignment in the Commissioner's Office working on special projects for the former Chief of Staff David Mortimer.

A licensed professional engineer, Kjetsaa's fond memories include the winter of 1994/95 when the east coast had a shortage of salt. Regardless of the buying power, the shortage created some real hardships. "If the salt wasn't delivered we could have had a statewide problem on our hands. It was a day-to-day, hour-by-hour crisis. I have fond memories of working at NJDOT — the camaraderie, the teamwork, the intelligent, dedicated staff who could handle any crisis at all," he said. "The people made it worthwhile."

With no immediate plans for the future, Mike hopes to relax around the house, take his German Shepherd dogs for walks, and eventually travel to Ottawa and Montreal to see wife Francine's family. Or, give some needed TLC to his 1969 XKE Jaguar convertible.

Adirondack bound . . .

Bureau Chief **Henry Justus** of Materials, Engineering and Testing has decided it's time to get the Adirondack

(Continued on page 4)

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Retirees *(Continued from page 3)*

house ready for skiing. He retired June 30 after 31 years at NJDOT.

Looking at his years at NJDOT, Justus recounted an experience that will stay with him always. "It's been an interesting career, especially in 1980 when I was a witness in a dispute with the state and materials suppliers about an aluminum welding problem," he said "After five days in the witness chair, my outlook on everything changed. It used to be black or white. Then, I realized that there has to be an interplay of how to look at things and how things happen. It was a life's lesson learned."

At his home base in Flemington, Justus will spend his time relaxing, sleeping late and getting supper for his wife Patricia. Justus' plans for the future include heading north for some good Lake George air and the ski lifts.

Farewell party...

Edna Schwing of Data Entry retired after 22 yrs., 5 mos. at NJDOT and was feted by her family, co-workers and friends at a retirement dinner on June 20.

More retirees...

Leslie Martin, Section Chief, Transportation System Planning, 32 yrs., 9 mos.; **Thomas J. Ball**, Supervisor of Right of Way 1, Capital Program Management, 31 yrs., 2 mos.; **Esther Boykins**, Principal Data Entry Machine Operator-Revenue Information Processing, 31 yrs., 1 mo.; **John J. Ganey**, Supervisor 3 Motor Vehicle Services, 25 yrs; **Richard Fugaro**, Safety Spec 1, Motor Vehicle Services, 21 yrs., 10 mos.; **Diane L. Pascoe**, Principal Right of Way Negotiator, Capital Program Management, 15 yrs., 9 mos.; and **Matthew Peschetti**, Safety Spec 2, Motor Vehicle Services, 6 yrs., 10 mos.

Blue Ribbon

(Continued from page 1)

Commissioner John J. Haley Jr. "This project improves safety without sacrificing the aesthetics of the Palisades Interstate Parkway."

The Commission gives the award to an employee and a non-employee who have contributed to the protection of scenic beauty in the Hudson River Valley. The $18.4 million project is scheduled for completion this year.

Park and Rides

The NJDOT Bowling League recently held its 37th Annual Banquet in Hamilton Township (Mercer County). The Park and Ride team was this year's champion, with the Materials team a close runner-up.

The championship team included Al Tavares, Doug Webb, Dana Hecht, Ron Allen, Rich Hillborn, Bob Goslin, Janine Livingston and Marion Marceau.

The 38th season will get under way in September, with full time and part-time positions available for Monday night handicapped games through April 1998. You may contact any of the following League officers for the upcoming season. Tom Wospil, Leo Eagleton, Sue Kadera and Brian Margerum. The captains will meet in August.